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## REPORTS.

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### *Report of the Committee on Eye-Pieces.*

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Dr. Geo. E. Blackham presented the Report of the Committee on Eye-Pieces as follows:

Your committee on nomenclature and sizes of oculars would unanimously report,

1. In favor of naming oculars, like objectives, by their equivalent focal lengths in English inches. We believe this method to be the best adapted to practical use, sufficiently precise for its object, and capable of general introduction with less inconvenience, opposition, or delay, than any other rational system. Assuming that one inch indicates an amplification of ten diameters, five inches of two diameters, one-fifth inch of fifty diameters, etc., as actually obtained by a compound microscope of a ten-inch tube (from the diaphragm of the ocular to the front lens of the objective), the image being measured by the camera lucida at a distance of ten inches from the camera, and that the amplifying power in use can be approximately determined by multiplying together the powers thus implied in the names of the objective and ocular, an extremely simple and comprehensive system is obtained, whose practical benefits are believed to greatly exceed its technical or theoretical faults, and whose adoption would add much to the definiteness and intelligence of the microscopical work. A table showing the simplicity and scope of this system is given in the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society* for 1882, page 105.

2. In favor of adopting one or more standard sizes for the tubes of oculars. That uniformity in this respect would be a great convenience to students, and, to say the least, no disadvantage to

manufacturers, we do not doubt; but the difficulties in the way of adopting such a policy at the present time are evidently great, far beyond comparison with those encountered in the introduction of the "society screw." Furthermore, the great variety of tastes among both makers and buyers as to sizes, styles, and pieces of stands seems to call for not less than two or three standard diameters of tube. As an important step toward uniformity, we would gladly recommend the adoption of the sizes recently proposed by the Royal Microscopical Society, 0.92 and 1.35 inches, were they adapted to the conditions existing in this country. But 0.92 is a smaller size than we are willing to recommend for any purpose, being much too little, in our judgment, for even the small, compact stands of the "continental" model. On the other hand, we would have preferred 1.40 inch for the large tube, but do not regard the difference as sufficiently important to justify the naming of still another size. There remains, however, a very large variety of medium-sized stands, a class believed to be rapidly increasing in numbers and importance, which can not, without a total change of character, be raised to 1.35 inch, and which should not, in our opinion, be reduced even to 1. We therefore propose a standard medium size, 1.25 inch, which we believe well adapted to a great majority of purposes, with the alternatives of 1 and 1.35 inch for those who wish smaller or larger tubes. Suitable adapters would harmonize apparatus previously made with these sizes, and these sizes with each other. We would also suggest the great convenience of uniform diameter in the upper tube of the ocular for the easy interchange of camera lucidas, analyzers, etc. There seems to be no serious disadvantage in having this tube of uniform diameter in stands of various styles and sizes; and we would recommend that 0.75 inch, or some similar size, be made a standard. We would also recommend that the diameter 1.50 inch, recommended by the Royal Microscopical Society for substage tubes, is in very general use and well adapted to both large and reasonably small stands, and we recommend its adoption to this Society.

3. The following resolutions are therefore submitted to the consideration of the Society:

*Resolved*, That this Society recommends that oculars be of named by their equivalent focal distances on the basis of one inch focus corresponding to ten diameters of

amplification at ten inches distance, and that this nomenclature be employed in the Proceedings of this Society.

*Resolved*, That this Society recommends the adoption of the diameter 1.25 inch outside measure as a standard size of ocular tubes, with a preference for 1.35 where smaller or larger sizes are required, and recommend 0.75 outside measure for ocular cap-tubes and 1.50 inch measure for substage tubes.

R. H. WARD,  
H. L. SMITH,  
J. D. HYATT,  
GEO. E. BLACKHAM.

The Report was ordered printed and referred back to the committee for further consideration, and report at the next annual meeting.